

What is claimed is:

1 **1.** A method for analyzing text in a natural language, the
2 method comprising:
3 constructing a hierarchical tree representing a text in a natural
4 language; and
5 applying a reduce rule to the hierarchical tree, the rule
6 applicable only to an instance of a predetermined sub-hierarchy of
7 the hierarchical tree.

1 **2.** The method of claim **1**, wherein the step of applying
2 comprises
3 specifying the predetermined sub-hierarchy as a path through
4 the hierarchical tree.

1 **3.** The method of claim 2, wherein the step of applying
2 further comprises
3 specifying the predetermined sub-hierarchy as a path through
4 the hierarchical tree, the path a sequence of nodes starting at the
5 root of the hierarchical tree.

1 **4.** The method of claim 2, wherein the step of applying
2 further comprises
3 specifying the predetermined sub-hierarchy as a path through
4 the hierarchical tree, the path a sequence of nodes starting at an
5 instance of a node other than the root of the hierarchical tree.

1 **5.** A method for constructing a text analyzer, the method
2 comprising:
3 enabling a user to specify reduce rules for a hierarchical tree

4 representing text in a natural language; and
5 enabling the user to specify a rule applicable only to an
6 instance of a predetermined sub-hierarchy of the hierarchical tree.

1 **6.** A data store wherein is located a computer program for
2 constructing a text analyzer by:
3 enabling a user to specify reduce rules for a hierarchical tree
4 representing text in a natural language; and
5 enabling the user to specify a rule applicable only to an
6 instance of a predetermined sub-hierarchy of the hierarchical tree.

1 **7.** A computer system for creating a text analyzer, the
2 computer system comprising:
3 the data store of claim **6**; and
4 a CPU, communicatively coupled to the data store and for
5 executing the computer program in the data store.

1 **8.** A method for analyzing text in a natural language, the
2 method comprising:
3 constructing a hierarchical tree representing a text in a natural
4 language;
5 applying rules to nodes of the hierarchical tree to transform the
6 tree, the rules having elements and suggested nodes; and
7 associating data with a node that matches an element of a
8 rule.

1 **9.** A method for analyzing text in a natural language, the
2 method comprising:
3 constructing a hierarchical tree representing a text in a natural
4 language;

5 applying rules to nodes of the hierarchical tree to transform the
6 tree, a rule having an element and a suggested node; and
7 associating data with a node that matches a suggested node
8 of a rule.

1 **10.** A method for analyzing text in a natural language, the
2 method comprising:
3 constructing a hierarchical tree representing a text in a natural
4 language;
5 applying rules to nodes of the hierarchical tree to transform the
6 tree, a rule having a context that is an instance of a predetermined
7 sub-hierarchy of the hierarchical tree; and
8 associating data with a node that matches the context of a
9 rule.